

OLD FIELD

Reply in chrono



LITTON INDUSTRIES

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April 26, 1976

Dear Vern:

I must say we were up to our bellybuttons in Waltereses over the weekend, you going out and Barbara coming into ABC-NEWS. While her value was being assessed in rating points she might bring over with her, I wanted you to know I have been comforted a great deal in knowing you were minding the store at your old stand -- when the decibels and headlines generated in Congress made going undoubtedly difficult.

Naturally, I wish you well, but I also hope that your vocal cords are in good repair -- and that in all the languages you can muster, that you talk about the constructives, the positives and the benefits of the old alma mater.

As your news was breaking, the printer was rolling with my new book, Those Wonderful Men in the Cactus Starfighter Squadron. I'm off to the Hannover Air Show next week, and we'll launch it there at the Biannual meeting the insiders called the Cactus Starfighter Reunion ever since it began in the late '60s. The Luftwaffe eligibles are those who got their pilot training in Arizona, and for this affair, they must dress Arizona-style with big hats, chaps, even as an occasional Indian off the reservation by 19,000 kilometers.

Being a genuine NATO pioneer, I'm sure it will please you to know that we will put the money from this book into a Luftwaffe/USAF "International Friendship Foundation". The annual income from this endowment will be disbursed forever in memory of this successful program, which did so much to put teeth in the central sector of SHAPE concerns. Anyone who did, as you did, engage in the abortive initial European Army concept and who saw it die, and then a Germany come in as a full family member of NATO in 1955 would be intrigued by this documenting of what has become a great success story.

For now, though, I do wish you well as you go off into the sunset, and if I know you, inactivity and relaxation will pale after a day or so and you'll be off into new worlds, and words, and even whirlwinds.

Milady joins me in wishing you everything good, fine, and the best,

Lieutenant General Vernon Walters,
Office of the Deputy Director,
Central Intelligence Agency,
McLean, Virginia

Col. Barney Oldfield, USAF(Ret.)

MORI/CDF